

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 286895
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 286895

EXDIS DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS

WHITE HOUSE FOR DR BRZEZINSKI USUN FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG

FOL TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO MOGADISCIO ADDIS ABABA
NAIROBI FROM JIDDA DTD 01 DEC 1977 QTE

S E C R E T JIDDA 8149

EXDIS (DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, PDEV, SO, US, ET, SA, UR, KE

SUBJECT: SAUDI REQUEST FOR US REVIEW OF POLICY ON MILITARY ASSISTNACE
TO SOMALIA

REF: STATE 281934

1. IN MY MEETING WITH PRINCE SULTAN ON DECEMBER 1, HE SPENT
CONSIDERABLE TIME ON THE SUBJECT OF SOMALI/ETHIOPIA AND WHAT
HE TERMED HIS INABILITY TO UNDERSTAND U.S. POLICY TOWARDS ITS
FRIEND SOMALI. HE SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN ASKED TO PASS A
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MESSAGE FROM CROWN PRINCE FAHD IN WHICH THE CROWN PRINCE ASKED
IF THERE WAS ANY POSSIBILITY THAT THE U.S. MIGHT CHANGE ITS
POLICY TOWARDS SUPPLYING ARMS TO SOMALIA. I TOOK THE
OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLAIN TO PRINCE SULTAN THAT IN ACCORDANCE
WITH SAG REUQUEST OF NOVEMBER 17, THE USG HAD JUST COMPLETED
REVIEW OF ITS POLICY ON MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO SOMALIA
AND I MADE POINTS IN REFTEL. I STRESSED THAT USG HAD

AGREED TO A REINSTITUTION OF ECONOMIC AID PROGRAMS FOR SOMALIA AND, IN FACT A SENIOR OFFICER HAD EITEHR ALREADY ARRIVED IM MOGADISCIO OR SHOULD ARRIVE SHORTLY. I ALSO STRESSED THAT WE WERE GAINING STRONG SUPPORT TO OAU MOVES TO GET NEGOTIATIONS STARTED WITH THE VIEW TO ARRANGING A CEASE FIRE.

2. PRINCE SULTAN SAID THAT HE HAD HAD A THREE HOUR MEETING WITH SOMALI PRESIDENT SIAD BARRE ON NOVEMBER 30 IN WHICH SIAD HAD CRIED DURIING MOST OF THE SESSION. PRINCE SULTAN POINTED OUT THAT AID TO ETHIOPIA IS IMMENSE: THE SOVIETS HAVE LINED UP LIBYA, PDRY, CUBA AND OTEHR EASTERN EUROPEAN NATIONS TO SUPPLY ETHIOPIA WITH MORE ARMS THAN SHE CAN ABOSRB. IT IS THE SOMALIS UNDERSTANDING THAT THE SOVIETS ARE SO ANGERED AT THEIR OUSTER BY THE SOMALIS THAT THEY HAVE DEVISED A PLAN WITH THE ETHIOPIANS WHEREBY THE ETHIOPIANS WILL COUNTERATTACK AND DRIVE TO BERBERA THEN AWARD BERBERA TO THE SOVIETS AS A BASE IN RETURN FOR THEIR SUPPORT.

3. PRINCE SULTAN SAID THAT AT THE MOMENT SAUDI ARABIA IS THE LONE STRONG SUPPORTER OF SOMALIA, ALTHOUGH THE SHAH OF IRAN HAS AGREED TO TAKE UP THE ARMS SUPPLY QUESTIONS DIRECTLY WITH PRESIDENT CARTER. PRINCE SULTAN SAID THAT HE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT ETHIOPIA WOULD ACCEPT NEGOTIATIONS WITH SOMALIA. THEY SEE AN EXCELLENT OPPORT-
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UNITY TO CRUSH SOMALIA AND THEY WILL PURSUE IT. SIAD HAS TOLD THEM THAT SOMALI CASUALTIES SO FAR HAVE BEEN VERY BITTER. AT THE MOMENT, THE SOMALIS HAVE TWO DESPARATE NEEDS AS FAR AS HEAVY ARMS ARE CONCERNED. THEY NEED ARMoured PERSONNEL CARRIERS AND AN EFFECTIVE ANTI-AIRCRAFT CAPABILITY. IN ADDITION TO THIS, SIAD SAID THAT THEYHAVE TWO REAL PROBLEMS IN SUPPLYING THEIR FRONTLINE TROOPS. THEY DO NOT HAVE SUFFICIENT FOODSTUFFS OR AMMUNITION. THUS, DESPITE GOOD MORALE, HIS TROOPS ARE FORCED TO FIGHT HUNGRY AND WITHOUT SUFFICIENT ANNUM- ITION. IN SUMMING UP HIS PITCH FOR U.S. ARMS FOR SOMALI, PRINCE SULTAN SAID THAT THE SAUDIS WOULD PAY FOR ALL ARMS SUPPLIED, BE THEY FROM U.S. STOCKS OR FROM STOCKS HELD BY OTHER COUNTRIES THAT COULD BE RELEASED TO THE SOMALIS. FURTHER, HE SUGGESTED THAT THE SAUDIS ARE WILLING TO AGREE TO BUY THE ARMS FOR DELIVERY TO SAUDI ARABIA, ACCEPT DELIVERY IN SAUDI ARABIA, THEN SHIP THE ARMS TO SOMALIA.

4. I TOLD PRINCE SULTAN THAT I WOULD CONVEY HIS VIEWS TO WASHINGTON. WEST UNQTE VANCE

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